

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 - Cancelled

13. (New) A method for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure, in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the method comprising:

receiving said contract data included in the request with which the service is requested, wherein said contract data comprises contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said plurality of contracts;

evaluating said contract selection parameters;

selecting one particular contract according to said evaluation and further selection logic; and

providing the service according to said contract.

14. (New) A method for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure, in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the method comprising:

creating said contract data comprising contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said plurality of contracts;

including said contract data into a request for said service;

issuing said request for said service; and

receiving the service according to said selection.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said contract data is processed via software interfaces adapted to comprise said contract data, said interfaces comprising respective definitions of the transport protocol in use, of the messaging protocol in use and on an associated port type in use.

16. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said contract data is processed within header fields of a web service request.

17. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said contract data is processed as a part of the endpoint specification of a respective service request.

18. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said contract selection parameters are transported in a SOAP message conforming to the SOAP standard.

19. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein multiple contract selection parameters are combined in a single service request.

20. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein said contract selection parameters comprise meta-data identifying a particular contract.

21. (New) A service requester computer server system for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure in which a

plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the system comprising:

- means for creating said contract data comprising contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said plurality of contracts;
- means for including said contract data into a request for said service;
- means for issuing said request for said service via network; and
- means for receiving the service according to said selection.

22. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein said contract data is processed via software interfaces adapted to comprise said contract data, said interfaces comprising respective definitions of the transport protocol in use, of the messaging protocol in use and on an associated port type in use.

23. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein said contract data is processed within header fields of a web service request.

24. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein said contract data is processed as a part of the endpoint specification of a respective service request.

25. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein said contract selection parameters are transported in a SOAP message conforming to the SOAP standard.

26. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein multiple contract selection parameters are combined in a single service request.

27. (New) The system according to claim 21, wherein said contract selection parameters comprise meta-data identifying a particular contract.

28. (New) A computer program product for processing contract data associated with services to be provided via a network in an infrastructure in which a plurality of binding contracts exists between a service provider and a service requestor for services having a respective number of service specifications, the computer program product comprising:

    a computer usable medium having computer usable program code embodied therein, the computer usable medium comprising:

        computer usable program code configured to create said contract data comprising contract selection parameters for selecting at least one service contract out of said plurality of contracts;

        computer usable program code configured to include said contract data into a request for said service;

        computer usable program code configured to issue said request for said service;  
and

        computer usable program code configured to receive the service according to said selection.

29. (New) The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein said contract data is processed via software interfaces adapted to comprise said contract data, said interfaces comprising respective definitions of the transport protocol in use, of the messaging protocol in use and on an associated port type in use.
30. (New) The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein said contract data is processed within header fields of a web service request.
31. (New) The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein said contract data is processed as a part of the endpoint specification of a respective service request.
32. (New) The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein said contract selection parameters are transported in a SOAP message conforming to the SOAP standard.
33. (New) The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein multiple contract selection parameters are combined in a single service request.
34. (New) The computer program product according to claim 28, wherein said contract selection parameters comprise meta-data identifying a particular contract.